

Using the Hawk Anamorphic V-Lite 1.3x Squeeze with the Sony F35mm camera

First of all I would like to thank Vantage and Hawk people to have offered us this fantastic premiere. In my name as a DOP and on behalf the director for letting us being the first fortunate user of these so new anamorphic lenses.

It was an opportunity to test them on real scale film even if it was a short film.

But it was also a big challenge as they behave completely different as other high quality lenses we are used to.

For the camera assistant Jean Van Gutte, one of the most experience focus puller in Belgium, he discovered that the field the lenses covered is curve and so when panning a character from left to right, the depth of focus is different and you have to pull or push the focus differently as even from 2:1 anamorphic lenses. This was quite new for him and we were feeling a little bit as pioneer, at the beginning of new era.

Flare and reflections are none, contrast is maintained even in backlight conditions and T4 seems to be a good aperture. But focus is very critical and pinpoint. Color Wise they looked matched even if we did not have the time to adjust white shading and flare accordingly to the camera.

Of course we are very happy to have a real anamorphic look which makes the pictures even issued from a "vidéo" camera much more cinematic. Depth of field (very narrow) is beautiful and the fall off of focus is soft and pleasing.

A little bit difficult was the use of the viewfinder which is still in compressed mode, but not on the monitor.

We look forward to see the colorgraded film especially comparing with what we are used to: scope with cropped images.

I think this is a major step forward for the Digital Cinematography even if by the way this set could also being used in Super 35mm.



Louis-Philippe Capelle, October 2008



